

Signal for Moderation

The best interests of all the people of this community can and should be served by the dramatic, deeply-felt and encouraging circumstances which enabled Raleigh Mayor William G. Enloe to abruptly change his mind about resigning his city post at this time.

Mayor Enloe's resignation, had it been tendered as planned, would have been no victory for those who demonstrated against the Ambassador Theater he manages here. Far otherwise, the pressures which pushed him to the brink of a difficult decision for himself and his city could have closed more doors than they opened.

Now the mature Negro leadership of this community has properly given Mayor Enloe a vote of confidence by pledging to try to halt massive and volatile picketing of the theater, postponing at least temporarily his resignation. And this incident should serve as a signal for the need of thoughtfulness and moderation in struggle in the future.

Undoubtedly Mayor Enloe's simultaneous position as mayor of all the people and as man-

ager of theaters, some of which have not opened their doors to all the people, made him seem a good target for demonstration. Actually, he was made by the demonstrators a symbol of the fact that even a man of the greatest good will can be harassed unless he moves, regardless of his responsibilities, at the pace of protest.

Mayor Enloe has done much to help Raleigh be a city of good will and fair play in racial struggles. Sometimes, indeed, he moved too rapidly to suit some of his white constituents. Furthermore, as a theater operator, he took steps to remove segregation policies at some of the theaters he managed. It was not bigotry but business responsibility which led him to say that public acceptance must be the only basis of integration at the Ambassador.

Unfortunate as it may seem to those who demonstrated against him, that acceptance is a fact of economic life even in an altering South. And the entire community as well as Mayor Enloe and others of good will should welcome belated recognition of that fact in this case.